

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Advisory Action dated September 28, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicant kindly requests entry of the amendments to the Specification and claims 1-3, 5 11, and cancellation of claim 10 prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-9 and 11-28 are pending in the application with claims 6, 8, 16 and 21-28 being withdrawn from consideration. Applicant notes the Advisory Action states that the claim amendments "would return some claims to a condition previously objected to and they would amend base claim 1 in a way considered to not overcome the prior art." However, without more specifics as to an actual rejection, Applicant cannot properly respond. Thus, Applicant assumes any next office action will be non-final.

Applicant believes the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

Application No.: 10/015,701

Docket No.:8733.479.00

Response dated October 27, 2004

Reply to Advisory Action dated September 28, 2004

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: October 27, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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